

Message Text

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12
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R 140239Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIANS SEEK TO STRENGTHEN CLAIM TO MACHIAS
-- SEAL ISLAND

REF: OTTAWA 3520

1. IN VIEW OF ACTIVITIES REPORTED REFTEL DEPT BELIEVES
IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO INDICATE TO GOC OUR AWARENESS OF
THE MATTER AND OUR VIEW THAT THOSE ACTIONS WILL NOT AFFECT
US RIGHTS ON AND AROUND MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND. WE BELIEVE
AIDE MEMOIRE (PARA 2) WILL ADEQUATELY SERVE THIS PURPOSE
AND REQUEST EMBASSY DELIVER IT TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL.

2. QUOTE

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO RECENT ACTIONS BY
CANADIAN CITIZENS PURPORTING TO FILE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES
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MINERAL CLAIMS ON AND IN THE VICINITY OF MACHIAS SEAL

ISLAND. SUCH ACTIONS CANNOT AFFECT THE SOVEREIGN TITLE
TO THE ISLAND WHICH RESTS WITH THE UNITED STATES UNDER
ARTICLE II OF THE DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE OF 1783 BE-
TWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. HOWEVER, THE
DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE QUESTION OF THE RESOURCES IN
THE MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND AREA ARE ISSUES THAT USEFULLY
COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL BOUNDARY
SETTLEMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE AREA. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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